

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216738

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BOGOTA

INFORM CONSULS

FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S NOVEMBER 2 NOON
BRIEFING:

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

Q: BOB, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD, IN ANOTHER AREA,
THE SECRETARY APPARENTLY LED SOME LATIN AMERICANS TO
BELIEVE THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE A TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA
WHEN HE MET WITH HIM IN NEW YORK. I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS
AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR HIM TO ATTEND A FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING IN NOVEMBER IN BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.
DOES HE INTEND TO KEEP THAT COMMITMENT? HAS HE UNDERTAKEN
THAT COMMITMENT? OR DOES HE PLAN SUCH A TRIP IN THE
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FUTURE?

A: FIRST, THERE HAS BEEN AN INVITATION TO HIM FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO ATTEND A MEETING IN BOGOTA, A MEETING OF A NUMBER OF THE HEMISPHERE FOREIGN MINISTERS, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 14 AND 16. NOW, IN LIGHT OF OUR PRESENT TRAVEL SCHEDULE, THAT OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO. HOWEVER, I WANT TO SAY THAT HE HAS BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE RESPONSE TO HIS INVITATION LAST MONTH IN NEW YORK TO WHAT IS BEING CALLED A NEW DIALOGUE WITH LATIN AMERICA AND LOOKS FORWARD TO HIS OWN PARTICIPATION IN IT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AND IF IT CONTINUES TO BE THE WISH OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE HEMISPHERE.

Q: BOB, DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN THIS WEEK--OR HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED ALREADY--THAT WOULD UNSETTLE HIS SCHEDULE?

A:NO.

Q: IT'S ON?

A: IT'S ON. (END NOON BREIFING PORTION)

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HAD ALSO BEEN PREPARED, BUT WERE NOT USED:

Q: HAS THE SECRETARY BEEN INVITED OFFICIALLY TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA NOVEMBER 14-16?

A: YES, AN INVITATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA WAS DELIVERED BY THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 29.

Q: WHY DID THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT FORMALLY INVITE THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND THE BOGOTA MEETING?

A: I THINK THAT QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. (END UNCLASSIFIED).

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BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL)

(FYI. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT OVER THE PAST WEEKS AS THEY SOUGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD ACCEPT IF THEY DECIDED TO INVITE HIM. SOME DAYS AGO (ON OCTOBER 25) WE TOLD THEM THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN BOGOTA WHICH WE PREVIOUSLY

HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE COLOMBIANS (ON OCTOBER 16), HAD BEEN PLANNED AS A PREPARATORY MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE HEMISPHERE PRIOR TO A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AS TO WHETHER WHEN, AND IN WHAT MANNER THEY RESPOND TO THE PROPOSAL THE SECRETARY MADE IN NEW YORK FOR A NEW DIALOGUE. END FYI.) (END CONFIDENTIAL).
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